

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
May 14, 2019

**SPECIAL MEETING
FOR MUNICIPAL DAY**

*With a special performance by
the Merrillville High School Choralteen Choir*

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Amirah Miller, Impact Christian Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Jamya Crockett acted as Clerk Treasurer. Mr. Pettit was absent. All other members were present.

Introductions: Jamya Crockett introduced each of the participants. Council President Madison Voubert read her essay.

Ward 1:	Samantha Sampson
Ward 2, Council President:	Madison Gibear
Ward 3:	Shelby Smith
Ward 4:	Lashauna Anderson
Ward 6:	Daniel Tanzymore
Ward 5:	Elise Cheatham
Ward 7:	Hope Garret
Town Manager:	Cameron Fields
Town Attorney:	Jameela Morgan
Police Chief:	Montana Bishop
Fire Chief:	Rheanna Early
Parks Director:	Nevaeh Hayes
Stormwater Exe. Director:	Kennedy Bishop
Building Director:	Dymond Lewis
Planning Director:	Miranada Henderson
Code Enforcement Director:	Janiyah Feitus

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

Mr. Hardaway said The Town received a request for approval of a large gathering permit for the NWI Hindu Religious Center. Ms. LaMarca made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated May 14, 2019. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2019. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mrs. Barron had no report.
Elise Cheatham had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Shelby Smith said the town wide Spring Clean-up Program will be extended and will end this Friday, due to large amount of rainfall the town apologizes to residents for the delay.

Cameron Fields said the annual neighborhood Paving Project has begun and will run through September; residents are asked to adhere to the temporary “No Parking Signs” so construction will not be delayed. Please contact the Town Manager Office if you have any questions.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Hope Garret said the town currently has 2 bids advertised for its 2 community crossing grants, the first bid for 73rd Avenue and County Line Road is due May 21st. The second bid for Whitcomb Street is due June 11th all bids will be publicly opened and read out loud at 10 a.m. on their respected day and the bids will be taken under advisement for future town council approval.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Daniel Tanzymore said there will be an Executive Session of the Personal Committee meeting on Tuesday May 28th at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the procedure of selecting a new Town Manager, the town has received 60 resumes and 6 have been provided initially to the Town Council for their review. Town Engineer resumes are due by Friday March 31st please feel free to contact Mr. Pettit with any questions.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Montana Bishop said the Police Department had officer Terrence Bronowski graduated from the academy on April 26th; with the weather warming up more police officer will be out patrolling parks, schools and bike paths on bikes and ATV's.

Rheana Early said Merrillville territory has accepted 3 new applicants recently 2 of which will start the Fire Academy soon and 1 that already has his certifications, this will bring our total to 14 full time fire fighters and 28 on call firefighters. The Fire Department has already responded to 2,707 calls in 2018 which is an increase for the prior year. The Merrillville Fire Fighters will be conducting "Fill a Boot" this coming weekend May 17, 18, 19 from 10 a.m. till 3 p.m. on the corner of U.S 30 Broadway to help raise money for Hoosier Burn Camp.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Nevaeh Hayes said she had great news! The Parks Department has been seeking out sponsorship for the Summer Concert and contacted Centier Bank for a request for sponsorship to help pay for talent, stage, and lights and sound. Centier Bank has offered to sponsor the concert, I will be working with them on advertising, signage and media marketing the only cost to our Parks Department will be the rental of the portable toilets and rental of go karts. The talents have already signed there agreements Soul Players, Together and Latin Satin Soul due to the huge turn out last year we have contacted the local churches to use there parking lots for the concert. The Park Department Mater Plan draft is close to being ready to be submitted to the DNR review and the Impact Fee Study is more than half way complete.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Elise Cheatham said the Lake County Solid Waste Management office will have a House Hold Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday June 1st from 9 a.m. till 2 p.m. at Hobart Works Department.

Kenney Bishop said a ditch between 73rd Avenue and U.S. 30th is being clear by construction and will be completed by the next 2 weeks. There has been a request for colts for a drainage project on 83rd Avenue Indiana Street; the Travel box Tree project will be put out for bid next month

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Lashauna Anderson said the Park Department is in the planning process for the Independence Parade to take place on July 4th at 12 p.m. the parade will begin at 80th Place and travel north on Broadway and end on 67th Avenue the town float has been order and the Park Department is working on the donations letters to local businesses. We will also be contacting other entrainment features for the parade. We are also looking for Merrillville Youth to enter the parade with a decorated bicycle the judges will pick the best decorated bike please check our Facebook page for more information.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Miranada Henderson said the Planning & Building Department has information available online for municipal codes and zoning maps our goal is to provide town residents and state coders with timely and concise information on projects in the Town of Merrillville.

Dymond Lewis said permits are required by the town for the following; construction demolition or repair of any remodeling being done to your home.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Samantha Sampson said the town wants to inform its residents that the Town Stead Tree Services is currently doing work for Nipsco within the community Town Stead will be trimming branches away from the power lines. Residents should know that Town Stead is responsible for all clean up not the town please feel free to contact Nipsco with any questions.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

Janiyah Feitus said the town currently owns some lots on 56th and 57th on Broadway these have been combined and will be put up for sale, we are hoping that a new business will be interested building on these locations.

Jameela Morgan said for council members to be aware that I have 2 Tax Sale Certificates in the name of town related to the Carriage House Property. The town wants to thank everyone in the Tax Department for all their help further action will be taken on these properties.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

None

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BZA ACTIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Environmental Resource Commission meeting, May 16, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Plan Commission meeting, May 21, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, May 22, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Abandoned Blighted Properties Commission meeting, May 23, 2019 at 2:30 p.m.

Redevelopment Commission meeting, May 28, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Town Council meeting May 28, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Barron made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer